



City of Minneapolis Employment & Training Monthly Update – December, 2013

STEP-UP Applications Are Now Available!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 21, 2014
Minneapolis
Workforce Council
Meeting
8:00-9:30 a.m.
Minneapolis Public
Schools Adult
Basic Education
2225 East Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN

January 22, 2014
Economic
Competitiveness
Summit
8 a.m.-5 p.m.
St. Paul RiverCentre
St. Paul, MN
[Summit Info](#)

January 28, 2014
Minneapolis
Youth Council Meeting
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Location: TBD

WHAT'S NEW?

[Job Connect!](#)
has an updated
website with new
opportunities and
information.

Find recent DEED
funded trainings and
career assistance
programs for
Minneapolis
residents
[here.](#)

Youth interested in a STEP-UP job must [apply online](#) by February 21, 2014. Young people who need assistance to complete the application can contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041.

All STEP-UP applicants MUST:

- Live in Minneapolis
- Be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2014 (no exceptions)
- Not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is OK)
- Be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2014 and have proper documentation
- Meet guideline incomes (below) or have barrier to getting a job (for example IEPs, English language learners, or pregnant and parenting teens).

Families should be at or below these incomes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • 1 person/family: \$45,500 | • 6 persons: \$75,400 |
| • 2 persons: \$52,000 | • 5 persons: \$70,200 |
| • 3 persons: \$58,500 | • 7 persons: \$80,600 |
| • 4 persons: \$65,000 | • 8 persons: \$85,800 |

The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program trains and matches Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 with summer internships at local businesses. STEP-UP is focused on serving youth from low-income families or youth that have risk factors making it challenging to find employment on their own.

Depending on age and skill level, interns may work in subsidized jobs at non-profit organizations or in employer paid position in the business community.

Internships are generally 20-40 hours per week for 6-10 weeks from mid-June to mid-August.

If your organization would like to host a STEP-UP intern, please complete the [STEP-UP Pledge Form](#) no later than February 1, 2014.

Minnesota Unemployment Rate Continues to Improve

The Minnesota unemployment rate fell 0.2 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted 4.6 percent, according to Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) figures. The U.S. unemployment rate was 7 percent in November. Minnesota has gained 39,800 jobs in the past year.

"The labor market continues to show steady improvement, with the number of unemployed Minnesotans now below pre-recessionary levels," said DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben. "The state economy is growing and outperforming the rest of the country in many key categories."

Nine of the state's 11 industrial sectors have gained jobs in 2013, led by education and health services (up 11,100). Other gains occurred in trade, transportation and utilities (up 10,400), leisure and hospitality (up 7,600), construction (up 4,200), professional and business services (up 3,700), financial activities (up 2,400), information (up 1,900), other services (up 600), and logging and mining (up 500).

In the state Metropolitan Statistical Areas, job gains occurred in the past 12 months in the Minneapolis-St. Paul MSA (up 1.8 percent), St. Cloud MSA (up 1.7 percent), Duluth-Superior MSA (up 1.2 percent), Mankato MSA (up 0.7 percent) and Rochester MSA (up 0.4 percent).

[Ready for Success](#) Enhances Job Seekers Confidence

What job seekers wear to an interview has a huge impact on the impression they give to a prospective employer. Within seconds of meeting a potential employee, employers make snap judgments about the interviewee's level of success, intelligence and whether or not they would be a good fit for their organization. Ready for Success provides low-income women and men with gently-used and new professional clothing, accessories, and new personal care items suitable for job interviews and the workplace. Clients receive the assistance of a volunteer personal shopper at an individual appointment in a boutique-style setting. Ready for Success began at Trinity Episcopal Church in 1997 and is jointly managed today by PPL and HIRED.

MNDOT Seeks to Reduce Disparities in Highway Construction

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Minnesota WorkForce Centers have partnered with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to deliver a program designed to reduce disparities in the ratios of minorities and women within the Minnesota highway construction industry.

The MNDOT-DEED Highway Heavy Construction Training (HHCT) program provides construction laborer employment preparation and training, support services and job search resources to women and minorities who have traditionally been under-represented in the highway construction industry. Support services to program participants and graduates may include help with purchasing basic tools and work clothing, and emergency job transition expenses such as gas, food, car repair, and child care. Job seeking skills training, resume rebuilding and help with keeping a job after hire are also available.

[View the brochure here.](#)

MNDOT also has programs geared for high school and college students.

[The Seeds Program](#) provides paid college-level student-worker positions to highly motivated minority or economically disadvantaged college students, students who are recently separated veterans and students with disabilities. The program equips and trains students for potential permanent placement at MnDOT following graduation and successful performance in the program.

[The Phoenix Program](#) is a one-year student job/paid internship for qualified high school students enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics courses at area schools participating in "Project Lead the Way". By working at various MnDOT offices and districts statewide, Phoenix Program students gain on-the-job work experience in a variety of areas.

Program participants may work up to 20 hours during the school year and 40 hours during summer and school breaks.

American Way of Hiring Makes Long-Term Unemployment Worse

There are currently more than 4 million Americans who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or more. This doesn't include those who work part-time or on contracts, or those who have simply stopped trying. Many of them are older and well educated, and their situation doesn't seem to be improving despite America's slow crawl out of the recession.

While last week's jobs numbers extolled a decline in the national unemployment rate, the numbers for the long-term unemployed didn't even budge.

[Read more of this Harvard Business Review article.](#)

SciTechsperience Offers College Interns to Minnesota Businesses

[SciTechsperience](#) is an internship program that creates the opportunity for Minnesota businesses to work with talented college STEM students to develop solutions for real world challenges. SciTechsperience provides a low-cost solution for small and medium-sized companies that otherwise may not have access to qualified interns. Participating companies receive matching funds of 50% of the intern's wages up to \$2,500.

To qualify, businesses must:

- Be a for-profit company conducting business in Minnesota
- Seven-county metro area companies must have fewer than 150 employees
- Companies outside the seven-county metro area must have fewer than 250 employees

The internship must provide hands-on experience in the student's field of study within the company's industry.

Eligible companies must be doing business in one of the following industries:

- Aerospace and Defense
- Agriculture, Food, and Forestry
- Biotechnology, Life Sciences, and Health IT
- Engineering Services
- Fuels, Energy, and, Energy Management
- IT/Computer Technology
- Mining, Materials, Manufacturing, and Processing.

For more information and to apply, contact Becky Siekmeier, Minnesota High Tech Association SciTechsperience Program Director at: beckys@mhta.org or 952-230-4241.

For more information on Minneapolis Employment & Training services, contact: Deb Bahr-Helgen, METP Director, 612-673-6226
[Minneapolis Employment and Training Website](#)